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September 13, 2002



SEP 10 2002

Colonel Christopher Knight, Director
Florida Highway Patrol
Neil Kirkman Building
2900 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Office of the Director
Florida Highway Patrol

Dear Colonel Knight:

Please allow me the liberty of expressing my heartfelt thanks to Trooper Kathy Cassella for her selfless assistance to me. On September 11, 2002, while traveling southbound on the Turnpike in Broward County in the passing lane, I had a sudden tire blowout. I pulled my car into the inside median lane which was so narrow that there was barely room to exit the car because of the median wall. The traffic on the Turnpike was exceedingly fast and I felt at great risk of being struck, whether I remained in my car or exited my car.

Trooper Cassella arrived to assist me in her marked Crown Victoria. She parked behind me to protect my vehicle from rear-end collision from the through traffic. Trooper Cassella could not exit her car because of the lack of space between the median wall and her door. Trooper Cassella stayed until a tow truck arrived and repaired my tire. All the while, I knew and Trooper Cassella knew, that should she be rear-ended she was at an increased risk of being killed due to a fire from a gas tank penetration. Nevertheless, she risked her life for me. I suspect that Trooper Cassella does the same every day for others as well.

The Patrol is fortunate to have Trooper Cassella in its ranks. I am forever grateful to Trooper Cassella for her acts of bravery.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. BLUMBERG, ESQ.
For the Firm

ERB\brh

cc: Mr. Fred Dickinson
Executive Director of the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles

Jon Whitney, Esq.
General Counsel, Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles